

❖ ROBYN EDWARDS ❖

BACKGROUND

“Would you like to dance”? It was a question a young man asked in an Adelaide dance hall that led to romance for Robyn Braidwood and Robert ‘George’ Edwards, marriage, family and ultimately a long happy connection to Buderim.

Robyn Emily Braidwood was born on 16 June 1943 in Parkes NSW, to a RAAF Officer James Drew Braidwood and his wife Constance May. She was the second of six. By the early 1960s, the Braidwood family was living in Adelaide where Robyn’s older brother Tracy was an accomplished Australian Rules footballer playing in the South Australian competition. George and Robyn were married in Adelaide on 10 October 1964 after a courtship of some 18 months. They later welcomed two children, Robert and Susan.



LIFE IN BUDERIM

While holidaying in Brisbane the family undertook a drive northwards. On the return journey, they noticed a road sign marking the Buderim turnoff and, on a whim, proceeded to the Mountain. That was a turning point for the Edwards family and one from which Buderim would later greatly benefit.

Robyn and George quickly saw the attraction of Buderim Village and acquired Buderim Electrical as a going concern. George undertook the site work while Robyn managed the office and shopfront. Later, with the business well established, Robyn returned to her former occupation and headed the cosmetics branch of a major pharmaceutical chain. Stylish and always immaculately groomed, she excelled in that role. Retiring in 1999, Robyn soon joined Friends of Buderim, a sub-committee of the BWMCA.

Robyn was truly committed to her community involvement, energetically and actively participating at committee and highest administrative levels with Friends of Buderim (Treasurer), the Buderim War Memorial Community Association (BWMCA) (Treasurer), Buderim Historical Society (Treasurer), Buderim Pioneer Cottage (Treasurer), The Old Post Office (Chair) and Bloomhill Cancer Care (President).

In addition, she undertook a central role in several initiatives, events and projects of these organisations, including 2012 B150 Celebration Year and major renovations of the War Memorial Hall, among many others. It should also be remembered she enjoyed the willing and untiring support of George.

Robyn was most deservedly honoured as a BWMCA Honorary Life member. With the formation of the Buderim Foundation in April 2004, she was one of the six prominent Buderim individuals (Members) appointed by the BWMCA and tasked with selecting the initial Board and overseeing the ongoing operation of the organisation. She continued in this role until October 2019.

George and Robyn lived for several years in their Sorensen Avenue home. About ten years ago, a desire to downsize prompted their purchase of a unit in the Waverley complex on Townsend Road.

Unfortunately, failing health forced Robyn to reluctantly curtail her community involvement. Robyn passed away on 6 May 2023 after a long and determined battle with cancer.

She leaves behind husband George, son Robert, daughter Susan and three grandchildren. She achieved for Buderim an enduring legacy and wide admiration for her community and philanthropic works.

It would be no exaggeration to hold that Robyn was deeply passionate about Buderim and its community. George light-heartedly recounts an episode that when the local Council announced an intention to fell poinciana trees along Gloucester Road’s footpaths, Robyn declared that she would chain herself to a tree in protest and opposition. If that time had ever come, George is convinced Robyn probably would have!

The Buderim community has sadly lost a genuine, capable and delightful person.

Donor: A collective of friends and admirers